

Weekly Weather
Crop Report

In cooperation with

Mississippi Department of
Agriculture and Commerce

Phone:601-965-4575
Facsimile:601-965-5622
www.nass.usda.gov/ms/
nass-ms@nass.usda.gov/

Week Ending July 23, 2006

Released: 3:00 P.M., July 24, 2006

According to the National Agricultural Statistics Service in Mississippi, there were 6.2 days suitable for fieldwork for the **week ending Sunday, July 23, 2006**. Dry conditions continue to be a problem for Mississippi. Scattered rains are helping, but are still not enough to bring many operations out of the drought for more than a few days. Due to poor conditions, many row crops may have lower yields this year. An unusual situation has arisen with a few reports of aphids on peanuts. Some pastures are bouncing back with the much needed rain that they received while others are still struggling with insufficient moisture. Soil moisture was rated 60 percent very short, 28 percent short, and 12 percent adequate.

Progress In Percentages						Conditions in Percentages				
Item	Event	This Week	Last Week	2005	5-Yr Avg	Very Poor	Poor	Fair	Good	Excellent
Corn	Silked	100	100	100	100	19	22	20	37	2
	Dough	97	87	87	89					
	Dent	78	60	53	60					
	Mature	18	1	1	8					
	Silage Harvested	68	46	41	34					
Cotton	Squaring	100	98	100	98	10	19	28	34	9
	Setting Bolls	83	67	80	81					
Peanuts	Pegging	100	70	--	--	3	9	23	65	0
Rice	Heading	58	32	34	43	0	5	16	65	14
Sorghum	Heading	99	94	96	94	4	4	35	57	0
	Turning Color	76	43	25	38					
Soybeans	Blooming	99	97	99	93	11	21	30	32	6
	Setting Pods	93	85	87	79					
	Turning Color	21	5	2	4					
Hay (Warm Season)	Harvested	65	62	69	64	16	24	26	34	0
Sweetpotatoes	Planted	100	90	100	100	0	20	35	40	5
Watermelons	Harvested	93	90	76	79	0	25	52	23	0
Blueberries						0	13	11	76	0
Cattle						13	19	29	32	7
Pasture						27	34	27	12	0

County Agent Comments

“Non-irrigated crops are burning up, but irrigated crops are holding up pretty well. Pastures are burning up. Hay will be short this year.”

— Jimbo Burkhalter, Tallahatchie

“The pasture situation has deteriorated to critical in most of the northern Mississippi counties. Producers are looking at utilizing abandoned crops such as corn and soybeans as a hay source. Hay feeding in most areas has been underway for more than three weeks.”

— Mike Howell, Lee

“Recent rains have only prevented further rapid deterioration of the crop. Additional rains are needed to get soil moisture to levels that will significantly improve our situation.”

— Ernest Flint, Attala

“We are getting some relief from the very dry conditions with sporadic afternoon thunderstorms; however, forage production (no matter if conditions improve) is in a state of disaster. Many cow and calf producers will be forced to reduce their herds.”

— Mark Gillie, Greene“Drought has really slammed our dry land crops and the cost of diesel has wrecked the budgets of irrigated crops.”

— Mack Young, Quitman

“It's been very dry and it's showing in fields. Crops and forages are wilting and leaves are turning due to heat and moisture stress. Vegetables are also in need of rain.”

— Melvin Oatis, Benton

“The hay crop is 50% at best for the first cutting and there is no regrowth for any second cutting. Pastures are about eaten to the ground. We had better get some rain soon.”

— Stephen R. Winters, Grenada

“Fruit retention in cotton is still high. Isolated cotton aphid, tarnished plant bug, and bollworm populations have required control measures. High temperatures in the past week caused some bloom abortion in soybeans.”

— Jay Phelps, Pontotoc

“Moisture is needed on all crops. Insect pressure is picking up in beans and cotton. Gardens have burned up and we are seeing a lot of early defoliation of trees.”

— Tim Needham, Tippah

“We missed the rains again. The harvest of non-irrigated corn and soybeans has started. Early yields are one-fourth to one-half of normal.”

— Jerry Singleton, Leflore

“It is still hot and dry. Irrigation is the only thing keeping crops going. Corn is maturing and early groups of soybeans are being harvested. Insect pressure is light and scattered.”

— Tommy Baird, Sunflower

“Spotted showers across the southwest district have been uplifting to everyone that has been fortunate enough to have received a sprinkle or two. We all probably wanted more rain, but at this point, any rain is more than some folks have had in a long time. Pastures and hay fields are trying to green-up again. Most silage producers are cutting now or getting ready to cut because of the drought-like conditions maturing the corn earlier than usual. This year really reminds me of 1980 as far as rainfall goes.”

— Houston Therrell, Rankin

“Hot, dry conditions continue. Corn is rapidly maturing. Pastures and hay meadows will continue to deteriorate until we get more rain.”

— Ed Williams, Oktibbeha

“Rains were a welcomed event. The only problem is that they were very scattered. There is still many places that are as dry as a bone. There are other places that are saturated. Pastures are looking somewhat better after the rains. The cotton was happy to get a shot of rain and it looks a little better. The jury is still out on the effect of the recent rains on soybeans.”

— Bill Maily, Hinds

“Almost everyone in Lamar County received one rain this week. Some got almost two inches while others received around one-tenth inch. In either case, it wasn't enough to last us very long. It's been clouding up and thundering a little every evening, and then it just seems to fade away without raining. Calls regarding pine beetles have picked up over the past couple of weeks, mainly in landscape situations that have received some soil disturbance.”

— Clayton Rouse, Lamar

“Producers are reporting lower yields for hay. Many producers have yet to cut hay due to a lack of rain and little or no growth. Spotty showers over the past week have provided some areas with minimal growth for grazing. Some producers are feeding hay that is in short supply; others are considering reducing herds.”

— Florieda K. Mason, Perry

“We have had some spotty rain that is helping, but we are still short.”

— Judith Breland, Stone

Additional comments appear on the Internet at: <http://www.nass.usda.gov/ms/cwyears.htm>

This publication is part of a series that first began in 1872 and has been continuously published since. In Mississippi, this report is a result of the cooperative efforts of:

U.S. Department of Agriculture
Mississippi Cooperative
Extension Service
Dr. Vance H. Watson, Interim Director

Southern Regional Climate Center
Louisiana State University
Elizabeth Sanders
Service Climatologist

U.S. Department of Agriculture
National Agricultural
Statistics Service - Mississippi FO
Thomas L. Gregory, Director

Weather Summary from July 17, 2006 to July 23, 2006 for Mississippi

District/Station	Air Temperature					Precipitation				4 Inch Soil Temperature			Avg Pan Evap
	Max	Min	Avg	Norm	DFN	One Week	DFN	Rain Days	Four Weeks	Max	Min	Avg	
1. Upper Delta													
Cleveland	102	64	85	82	+3	0.00	-0.65	0	1.11				
Lambert	101	63	84			0.00	-0.77	0	1.41				
Tunica	100	65	85	82	+3	0.00	-0.80	0	0.39				
Extreme/Average	102	63	85	82	+3	0.00	-0.88	0	1.26				
2. North-Central													
Calhoun City	101	65	84	81	+3	0.10	-0.83	1	0.75				
Hickory Flat	102	59	83	79	+4	0.05	-0.98	1	2.13				
Independence	98	58	81	81	0	0.00	-0.84	0	2.64				
Oxford	101	61	84	81	+3	0.00	-0.91	0	0.52				
Extreme/Average	102	58	82	81	+1	0.05	-0.89	1	2.64				
3. Northeast													
Booneville	101	65	84	80	+4	0.12	-0.79	1	2.14				
Iuka	99	59	81	78	+3	0.31	-0.74	3	0.77				
Ripley	102	61	83	80	+3	0.09	-0.96	1	0.58				
Tupelo	103	73	87			0.00		0	1.75				
Verona	104	66	84	81	+3	0.00	-0.77	0	3.34				
Extreme/Average	104	59	83	81	+2	0.13	-0.83	1	0.58				
4. Lower Delta													
Moorhead	101	67	85	82	+3	0.00	-1.08	0	1.16				
Rolling Fork	102	68	86	82	+4	0.07	-0.82	1	0.59				
Stoneville	101	66	84	83	+1	0.00	-0.87	0	1.84				
Yazoo City	100	69	84	82	+2	0.24	-0.72	1	0.84				
Extreme/Average	102	66	86	83	+3	0.04	-0.93	1	0.88				
5. Central													
Canton	100	68	84	82	+2	0.54	-0.32	2	1.04				
Carthage	101	69	84	81	+3	2.20	+1.15	2	2.84				
Eupora	100	62	82	80	+2	0.01	-0.90	1	2.05				
Lexington	101	65	83	80	+3	0.37	-0.47	2	3.05				
Extreme/Average	101	62	84	81	+3	0.46	-0.59	2	3.05				
6. East-Central													
Aberdeen	102	69	84	81	+3	1.60	+0.74	3	1.70				
Houston	102	63	84	80	+4	0.07	-0.79	1	0.46				
Philadelphia				81		2.00 E	+0.89	2	2.33 E				
State University	103	63	83	81	+2	1.15	+0.17	3	2.64				
Extreme/Average	103	63	84	81	+3	1.21	+0.18	2	1.60				
7. Southwest													
Crystal Springs	99	68	85	82	+3	2.04	+1.11	4	3.28				
Natchez	98	68	84	82	+2	1.50	+0.59	2	3.95				
Oakley	100	66	83	81	+2	3.09 E	+2.25	3	6.79 E				
Vicksburg	98	69	84			4.95		2	5.85				
Extreme/Average	100	66	84	81	+3	2.90	+1.88	3	3.28				
8. South-Central													
Collins	100	70	85	81	+4	3.53	+2.41	2	5.16				
Columbia	98	70	85	82	+3	1.39	+0.13	2	3.63				
Tylertown	97	68	83	81	+2	2.29	+0.92	3	5.32				
Extreme/Average	100	68	84	81	+3	2.91	+1.72	3					
9. Southeast													
Hattiesburg	99	68	85	82	+3	1.87	+0.54	3	5.62				
Laurel	102	70	84	81	+3	0.75	-0.52	3	1.37				
Newton	102	65	84	81	+3	0.32 E	-0.80	2	1.16 E				
Extreme/Average	102	65	84	81	+3	0.54	-0.72	3	1.37				
10.Coastal													
Gulfport	93	72	83	83	0	0.36	-1.25	3	2.39				
Pascagoula 3 NE				81					0.00				
Picayune				82		1.75 E	+0.21	1	1.75 E				
Extreme/Average	93	72		82		1.75	+0.14	1					
State	104	58	84	81	+3	1.07	-0.02	2	1.98				

DFN = Departure from Normal.